



Brawley Plant Closing Media Release

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For Immediate Release

Imperial Valley Cattle Feeders Work to Keep Brawley Plant Open In Wake of National Beef Packing Decision to Close Facility *National Beef was offered an additional \$9 million to prevent plant closing*

BRAWLEY, Calif. [February 21, 2014] — The Imperial Valley Cattle Feeders Group said today that it had been working with National Beef Packing Co. to prevent the closing of its Brawley processing facility on April 4.

The local feeders offered in excess of \$9 million in additional cattle price discounts for years 2014 and 2015. The discount was in addition to the \$15 million of discounts previously given National Beef on Jan. 1, 2013. Annual discounts beyond \$24 million would put local feeders at a disadvantage when trying to compete with other markets, according to Bill Brandenburg, of the Imperial Valley Cattle Feeders (IVCF) Group.

“National lost a stable supply of cattle from Arizona and some IVCF members had plans to increase their supplies but those plans are now on hold. Imperial Valley cattle numbers are at 25-30 year highs. Valley feeders understand National's need for more cattle and are ready to accommodate those needs to the best of their abilities,” Brandenburg said.

The feeders said they appreciate all of the extraordinary efforts made by Imperial County, City of Brawley, Imperial Irrigation District, Senator Ben Hueso, Assemblyman Manuel Perez, the Governor’s office, the Regional Water Quality Board and other stakeholders who have worked with National Beef to keep its plant open.

“We owe it to the Imperial Valley community, the plant’s 1,300 employees, and our own feed yard employees to continue looking at all options,” Brandenburg said.

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